CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ~~SECRET~~

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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1. The dam near Rybinsk (58°03'N, 38°50'E) was built during the course of the "Great Volga Project". The project concerned the regulating and deepening of the Volga, its connection with Moscow and the most important waterways and seas of the Soviet Union, and its exploitation for energy and irrigation purposes. 50X1-HUM

2. The dam and power works near Rybinsk were built in the course of the third Five Year Plan. (Comment: According to the Soviet radio, the Rybinsk project was begun during the second Five Year Plan. Reference here may be to the fact that turbines were installed in 1941; see para 8.) The upper course of the Volga, in conjunction with the Moscow Volga Canal completed in 1937, was to have been deepened to 2.6 meters (later 5.5 meters) and made navigable. The original plan, i.e., to erect the dam near Yaroslavl, was abandoned, probably because of the intention of building a new aluminum works in Rybinsk which would require a large supply of electric energy. Northwest of Rybinsk there was also a suitable flood area in the marshlands of the Mologa and Sheksna Rivers. The dam was completed in 1939; the power works began to operate under limited conditions in May 1941. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

3. The dam consists of 200,000 cubic meters of concrete faced with iron plates. It is about 8 kms. long, 25 to 30 meters high, 60 meters thick at the base, and 20 meters thick at the top. The top of the dam can be used for road traffic but the approaches on either side are steep. A single track rail line runs from the Rybinsk station to the top of the dam on an embankment 3-4 meters high. There are two parallel sluices, each 290 meters long and 30 meters wide. The height of water behind the dam reaches 15 meters.

4. The Sheksna, which is a tributary of the Volga, has an earth dam. Four of the old sluices of the Marien Canal system have been inundated. The Sheksna is navigable between Cherepovets and Rybinsk and has a maximum width of 3 kms. In the winter of 1945-46, in spite of temperatures down to -50°C, there was a navigable channel through brash ice.

5. The hydro-electric works, located 10 kms. northwest of Rybinsk, was built at the same time as the dam. It supplies current to Moscow and reportedly

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also to Leningrad. It was to have had six turbines, each of 55,000 KW, or a total installed capacity of 330,000 KW. Up to January 1941, two turbines had been installed. Two further turbines were to have been delivered in the course of 1941 from the Stalin Engineering Works, Leningrad. CRES Rybinsk at the present has three turbines, each of 55,000 KW. Comment: in 1946 German PWs were employed in the completion of the electric plant at Rybinsk, which had been under construction since 1934. six turbines were installed; but, when the production of current proved unprofitable, the plant was dismantled. there were once three large turbines in the plant, but in 1945 there was only one and it was not in good mechanical condition. On the other hand, the Soviet radio claimed on 21 March 1947 that the capacity of the Rybinsk hydro-electric station was 330,000 KW; this assertion implies that all six turbines were installed and operating as planned. Yet again no further work on the dam and power plant has been undertaken since the war.)

6. As a result of the damming of the Volga, Mologa, and Sheksna, the Rybinsk Sea (Rybinskoe More), a giant reservoir of 4,750 sq. kms., was created northwest of Rybinsk. (Comment: The Soviet radio announced that the reservoir would be filled to capacity in 1947 for the first time, with a total surface area of 4,500 sq. kms.) The reservoir was planned to contain 24.8 billion cubic meters of water. In the summer of 1947, its actual content was given as 15 billion cubic meters. The reservoir is up to 70 kms. wide. The dammed water is backed up the Volga to Uglich, and up the Mologa and Sheksna for 300 kms.

7. Two towns and 552 villages had to be evacuated when the reservoir was built and have since been inundated. In July 1947, for example, all that remained of the flooded town of Mologa were a church tower and a few high buildings on a hill protruding from the water.

8. Shipping on the Rybinsk Sea suffers considerably from frequent and violent storms, which break out without warning as the result of northwest winds up to strength 9 (Comment: 18 meters per second).

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